

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Annals of Iowa

Volume 6 | Number 6 (1904)

pps. 471-473

Tablets Unveiled

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/).

Recommended Citation

"Tablets Unveiled." *The Annals of Iowa* 6 (1904), 471-473.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3064>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](https://iowaresearchonline.org/)

is a half-tone copy of a steel engraving which was published in a book of Iowa Biography during his life-time. It is an excellent likeness as he appeared before he began to feel the encroachments of age. But really, the State should possess an oil portrait of this grand old pioneer who was an important factor in laying the foundations of our State while Iowa was still a territory. "He did the State some service," and his memory should be cherished as one of its most deserving sons.

Mr. Duffield's article is illustrated with an engraving of the portrait of Samuel Clayton, a noted pioneer of Van Buren county and a cut of the ruins of the last of the old flouring mills built in early days. The other mills have disappeared. A bit of beautiful scenery near Mr. Duffield's residence is also presented in another engraving. We are indebted for the excellent photographs from which these engravings were copied to Mr. E. R. Harlan, of Keosauqua, who finds time in the midst of his legal practice and business affairs to indulge in a little amateur work in this direction. He photographed the old "Church Tree" of which a cut appeared in a previous number.

An excellent portrait of Mr. John Weare illustrates the first part of "Pioneer Perils," an exciting event in the early history of Cedar Rapids. Mr. Weare was a widely-known business man when thousands of the early settlers were rushing to Iowa every month. His dealings were largely with these people.

TABLETS UNVEILED.

The 19th day of April, 1904, was distinguished by an event of no mean significance in Iowa history. On that day the first commemorative tablet placed in the building of the Historical Department of Iowa was unveiled. The event was significant because it was the unveiling in this State of the first tablet having reference to any event or character in Revolutionary history. Certain graves of departed Revolutionary soldiers had been marked by monuments according to old burial customs, but their historial

and educational significance was not the same. Those events were local; this was State-wide in its aspects and its lessons for the people. The immediate movers in this commemoration were the members of the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. *THE ANNALS OF IOWA* had, however, an influence more or less potent, in inspiring this patriotic action. In July, 1901, *THE ANNALS* contained the names of five Revolutionary soldiers whose ashes rested in Iowa soil, with brief enumeration of the particulars of their birth, life, service in that war and death. Their names were William Blair, Timothy Brown, John Osborn, George Perkins and Charles Shepherd. Prior to this publication, however, in April, 1900, action had been taken at the annual meeting of the Society, looking toward the erection in the Historical Department of a tablet to the memory of William Blair, it being supposed at the time that no other patriot of '76 had his honored grave in Iowa. Before the action of this Society took definite form the article referred to appeared in *THE ANNALS*, and the Sons were greatly aided in their work of identifying the graves of Revolutionary soldiers by that publication, their object having expanded from the commemoration of the death and burial of one to the commemoration of the death and burial of all the soldiers of that war buried in the State.

The event is significant in the evidence it furnishes of the rising tide of patriotic sentiment and of the renewing and intensifying of the proper appreciation of the importance of that great struggle and of the sacrifices of those who fought its battles.

We learn that the first of the Sons to feel the inspiration to commemorate the death of any Revolutionary soldier in Iowa was Judge Andrew J. McCrary, formerly of Keokuk. He made the motion in the meeting of the Society in 1900, which started the movement that resulted in placing the beautiful and artistic bronze tablet where every visitor to the Historical building must see it and take in its meaning.

The details of the work of selection, of inscription, contracting for and unveiling of the tablet, which is the design and handiwork of Tiffany & Co. of New York, fell to the lot of Herman Knapp, Esq., of Ames, and Capt. Elbridge D. Hadley, of Des Moines. They are justly proud of the results of their patient care.

The unveiling ceremonies were interesting in the extreme. Col. Warren Scott Dungan, retiring president of the Society presided. The report of the tablet committee was made by Mr. Knapp. Col. Dungan followed with an eloquent and patriotic dedicatory address. The response for the State of Iowa was made by Mr. Henry Wallace at the request of the Governor, and Capt. Edward Ridgeway Hutchins concluded the ceremonies with an address of congratulation. We take the liberty of quoting the following passages from Col. Dungan's address:

What, then, does this Tablet mean? It means that the virtues of valor, self-sacrifice for home and country, of patient suffering and heroic endurance, which solved the problem of liberty and caused the birth of a new republic in the new world, shall everywhere be recorded and engraved

in the most enduring form as an inspiration to all the generations coming after.

It means that the services, the lives and the blood of the patriot fathers sacrificed for us shall stand emblazoned, not only on every page of our history, but on every patriot grave throughout our broad land, to kindle in the hearts of those who succeed us a patriotic ardor which is essential to the higher ideals of good citizenship.

It means that the American *private soldier*, especially of the Revolutionary period, shall be honored far beyond those of any other nation of the world, because of the high position which we in our system of government, assign to the citizen in his individual capacity, where he has no superior before the law. *

A bronze tablet has also been placed in the College for the Blind at Vinton, to the memory of Capt. Thomas Drummond, the founder of that institution. Mr. A. N. Harbert of Shellsburg, collected the subscriptions, prepared the inscriptions and contracted with the Tiffanys of New York city for its manufacture. A rich and beautiful piece of workmanship was secured. This was placed on the walls of the College and dedicated to the memory of the citizen, editor and soldier, May 26, 1904. The presentation address was made by Hon. Cato Sells, of Vinton, and the bronze was accepted by Governor Albert B. Cummins. Addresses were also made by Senator W. P. Whipple, Judge L. G. Kinne, Prof. T. F. Tobin, and others. Hon. Bernard Murphy, his journalistic successor, issued a special Drummond edition of *The Vinton Eagle*, presenting the principal addresses, with many appropriate illustrations, including a portrait of Capt. Drummond, and a cut of the tablet. The occasion was one of great interest, and with the exception of the absence of Mr. Harbert, due to illness, everything passed off happily. Thomas Drummond was a distinguished and useful Iowa journalist and legislator up to the time that he entered the regular army. He fell at the battle of Five Forks, Va., April 1, 1865, when the fighting was practically over. This commemoration of his useful labors and heroic death makes his memory secure in Iowa.

THE LARRABEE STATUES.

In front of the Iowa building at St. Louis, the attention of the visitor is attracted to the bronze statues of Gen. William T. Sherman, Admiral Farragut, Ex-Speaker David B. Henderson and Major-General Grenville M. Dodge. These statues are spoken of by all who have seen them as works of high artistic merit. Those of Gen. Sherman and Admiral Farragut have been carefully inspected and heartily approved by the sons of those illustrious heroes. The statues

Copyright of *Annals of Iowa* is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.